

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIAFinal Results of Cereal and Hay Harvest, 1948-49

There still are a few minor wheat districts where the completion of the collection has been delayed and a number of odd returns from farmers in other districts outstanding but, rather than delay the final results, a safe estimate has been made for all these and hence the totals now submitted may be accepted subject to slight alteration.

SEASONAL CONDITIONS - The 1948-49 season had a splendid opening, except for the Western and Upper North Divisions, the April rains generally being the best since 1938 and May being only slightly below normal. June, July and the first half of August were decidedly dry but good general rains fell during the latter half of August. Unfortunately September and the beginning of October were very dry and the wheat yield was being estimated as low as 7 or 8,000,000 bushels. Good general rains fell on October 10 and 11 followed by further good falls during the balance of the months and into the first half of November. Conditions were so favorable including the good rains and cool weather with very little damage from rust, haydie, etc. that a wheat yield of 25,100,000 bushels was forecast in December. Further favorable harvesting conditions were experienced, the grain developed into a plump kernel and many farmers gathered more grain than they had anticipated with the result that an actual harvest of 26,082,460 bushels has been obtained. The average wheat yield of 12.64 bushels per acre compared with the mean of 10.73 for the past 44 seasons is very satisfactory considering that the April-November rainfall for the agricultural areas was only 11.73 inches compared with the mean of 12.27.

When issuing the barley estimate of 11,500,000 bushels it was stated that it was understood that the farmers' estimates were being exceeded, and the actual is 12,065,476 bushels.

The oat yield is always difficult to forecast and the actual is only 2,630,534 bushels compared with the estimated 3,100,000. Larger areas were fed off than anticipated.

NOTE:- 1948-49 particulars are shown hereunder with those for 1947-48 in parentheses. For Statistical purposes, the weight of the bags is not counted as grain.

WHEAT:- The yield of 26,082,460 (32,524,422) bushels averaged 12.64 (13.70) bushels per acre from an area of 2,062,789 (2,374,873) acres including areas failed. Including wheat for hay and green forage, the total area was 2,157,774 (2,486,505) acres.

WHEAT AND FALLOW: On fallowed land 1,613,208 acres of wheat produced 23,099,387 bushels averaging 14.32 bushels per acre. On not fallowed land, there were 449,581 acres with 2,983,073 bushels averaging 6.64 bushels. The average yields the previous season were 15.14 bushels on fallow land and 8.95 on land not fallowed.

BARLEY:- The yield totalled 12,065,476 (15,363,461) bushels and the average per acre was 17.33 (27.32). 11,331,197 bushels were reported to be 2 row (malting) and 734,279 bushels 6 row. The acreage for grain was 696,216 (562,405) and for all purposes 726,731 (580,682). The 1948-49 yield has only been exceeded by the 1947-48 yield.

OATS:- The yield totalled 2,630,534 (5,394,261) bushels and the average per acre was 9.18 (17.47). The acreage for grain was 286,500 (308,783) acres and for all purposes 622,156 (559,931).

CEREALS ETC. USED ON FARMS. Farmers reported that they used the following quantities of cereals, etc. on their farms during the twelve months ended March 1949. For seed - Wheat 2,394,087, Barley 898,437 and Oats 743,864 bushels. For feed for livestock and poultry - Wheat 1,234,711, Barley 725,722, Oats 717,848 bushels and Hay and Chaff 222,401 tons. Of the wheat produced in 1948-49, it was reported that 2,266,822 bushels were retained on the farms for seed and 574,594 bushels for feed.

RYE: - There has been a decided increase in the areas cropped with rye. In 1935-36 there were only 1,680 acres and for 1948-49 a total of 49,020 of which 40,934 (25,029) were for grain yielding 257,158 (109,950) bushels.

FIELD PEAS: - 155,198 (232,822) bushels from 13,789 (13,252) acres.

HAY: - 232,373 (296,261) acres were cut for hay, wheaten being 79,410 (106,404) and oaten 112,220 (149,461) acres. The total yield was 308,699 (443,659) tons, wheaten being 107,705 (167,838) and oaten 131,410 (205,060). Average tons per acre were 1.33 (1.50)

ACREAGES: - The following table shows the total areas under wheat, barley and oats for all purposes, (grain, hay or green fodder) for 1930-31 - the maximum year for wheat; for 1939-49 - the maximum year for barley (until 1948-49) and oats; for 1943-44 - the lowest areas in recent years; for 1945-46 - showing the large increase during the 2 seasons; for the next 3 seasons, and for 1949-50 representing the areas that farmers indicated they intended to sow when particulars of the recent harvest were being collected during the last 3 or 4 months. Particulars of actual sowings are being collected at present to ascertain whether or not farmers put in the full areas that they had intended. It is noted that the total area under wheat, barley and oats is decreasing slightly each year, the decrease for wheat being greater than the increases for barley and oats.

<u>Season</u>	<u>Wheat</u>	<u>Barley</u>	<u>Oats</u>	<u>Total</u>
1930-31 acres	4,507,213	267,369	519,300	5,293,882
1939-40 "	2,948,110	558,559	834,793	4,341,462
1943-44 "	1,675,778	304,382	563,565	2,543,725
1945-46 "	2,407,253	479,394	686,128	3,572,765
1946-47 "	2,662,150	520,027	485,736	3,667,913
1947-48 "	2,486,505	580,682	559,931	3,627,118
1948-49 "	2,157,774	726,731	622,156	3,506,661
1949-50 "	1,975,000	725,000	650,000	3,350,000

VARIETIES SOWN: - Particulars of the acreages sown with the principal varieties of wheat, barley and oats will be published later.

THE ATTACHED STATEMENTS show details of 1948-49 crops in Statistical Divisions and also the 1948-49 totals compared with the five previous seasons.

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Statistical Office,
ADELAIDE.

8th July, 1949

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

FINAL RESULTS OF CEREALS AND HAY, 1948-49.

1. ACREAGE CROPPED

Divisions	Total Cereals Peas, Hay Forage Acres	GRAIN			Hay Total Acres	Fed Off Areas (total) Acres
		Wheat Acres	Barley Acres	Oats Acres		
Central	885,572	378,222	310,262	31,651	103,384	50,316
Lower North	804,681	540,403	142,475	36,444	39,538	41,853
Upper North	165,891	145,936	2,518	5,651	6,077	5,188
South Eastern	105,306	28,447	15,518	24,653	30,513	4,784
Western	1,024,797	588,090	111,019	145,535	20,286	158,741
Murray Mallee	636,644	381,691	114,424	42,566	32,575	29,408
Total 1948-49	3,622,891	2,062,789	696,216	286,500	232,373	290,290
Total 1947-48	3,722,055	2,374,873	562,405	308,783	296,261	141,452
Increase or Decrease	- 99,164	-312,084	133,811	-22,283	-63,888	148,838

2. PRODUCTION OF GRAIN AND HAY

Divisions	GRAIN						Hay
	Wheat		Barley		Oats		Total
	Bush	Aver.	Bush.	Aver.	Bush	Aver	Tons
Central	6,635,624	17.54	6,213,978	20.02	472,907	14.94	161,471
Lower North	9,563,639	17.70	2,295,666	16.11	545,072	14.96	46,378
Upper North	1,786,189	12.24	39,771	15.79	56,974	10.08	6,470
South Eastern	629,683	22.14	342,515	22.07	534,343	21.67	52,358
Western	4,116,294	7.00	1,510,700	13.61	645,682	4.44	13,757
Murray Mallee	3,351,031	8.78	1,662,846	14.53	375,556	8.82	28,265
Total 1948-49	26,082,460	12.64	12,065,476	17.33	2,630,534	9.18	308,699
Total 1947-48	32,524,422	13.70	15,363,461	27.32	5,394,261	17.47	443,659
Decrease	6,441,962	1.06	3,297,985	9.99	2,763,727	8.29	134,960

3. FIVE YEARS' COMPARISON

Year	WHEAT			Rainfall Agric. April- Nov. Inches	BARLEY Yield Bush	OATS Yield Bush
	Area	Yield	Aver. per Acre			
	Acres	Bush	Bush			
1943-44	1,533,816	20,690,471	13.49	10.68	5,057,594	2,294,359
1944-45	1,623,145	9,244,211	5.70	8.84	3,184,831	1,316,283
1945-46	2,165,004	21,033,841	9.72	10.74	7,566,146	3,178,450
1946-47	2,518,948	27,906,001	11.08	10.13	8,424,061	2,780,364
1947-48	2,374,873	32,524,422	13.70	13.93	15,363,461	5,394,261
Mean	2,043,157	22,279,789	10.74	10.86	7,919,219	2,992,743
1948-49	2,062,789	26,082,460	12.64	11.73	12,065,476	2,630,534

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